DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2835/306097.01
Application No.: 10/722,987
Office Action Dated: February 8, 2007

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-19, 22-32, and 34-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-7, 10, 13-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Green (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0129012). Claims 11, 12, and 23-32, and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Fujisaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,666). Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Independent claims 1, 13, and 25 as amended contain features neither taught or suggested by the art of record. In particular, independent claim 1 teaches:

> A method for searching data in an electronic device comprising:
>
> storing a plurality of first character strings and corresponding second character strings;
>
> receiving a query; and
>
> searching the stored character strings responsive to the query by receiving a character, appending said character to previously received characters if any, performing a prefix search of received characters on the stored second character strings, and returning a set of first character strings stored with the second character strings that match the prefix search, wherein receiving the character comprises receiving input from an input device, and
>
> d etermining the character from a set of characters that corresponds to the received input, further wherein **the input device comprises a plurality of keys, and each key corresponds to a unique subset of an alphabet.**

Green purports to teach a document retrieval system that relates words using unique word codes to documents (Green, Abstract). A word lookup table further identifies sets of words with common characteristics, along with a character lookup table that identifies whether a particular word contains a specified character (Id.). When a search string is received a target set generator accesses the word lookup table to create a target word set corresponding to the search string (Id.).

Fujisaki purports to teach a method for performing an incremental search using a character string returned by a recognizer using a confusion matrix encoded dictionary to

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predict a word in a handwriting field of an application program (Fujisaki, Abstract). Handwritten characters are input into a data entry field of an application program (Id.). The characters are assigned a code, and the string is recognized by comparing the sequence of codes with a dictionary mapping code sequences with words (Id.).

The cited art fails to teach or suggest **the input device comprises a plurality of keys, and each key corresponds to a unique subset of an alphabet**, as taught by claim 1 as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1 as amended.

Independent claims 13, and 25 are independent claims and contain at least the feature of **the input device comprises a plurality of keys, and each key corresponds to a unique subset of an alphabet**, as described above for independent claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to these claim for similar reasons as proposed above for independent claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-19, 22-24, 26-32, and 34-36 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1, 13, and 25, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above for the independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-19, 22-24, 26-32, and 34-36.

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